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MALMESBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1937.

H. T. Harding, The Abbey Press, Malmesbury.



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MUNDENS,

MALMESBURY,

19th May, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
MALMESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

(1) Area ... 58129 acres.

(2) Population

(a) At Census for 1931 8434

(b) Estimated for 1937 8017

(3) Rateable Value ... £30796

Sum produced by a penny rate, £122.

(4) The occupation of your District is agricultural.

(5) Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.	
Births	{ Legitimate	108	59	} Birth Rate 14.1.
	{ Illegitimate	6	3	

	Total	M.	F.
Still Births	{ Legitimate	2	0
	{ Illegitimate	0	0

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	100	51	49

Crude Death Rate 12.4.

Adjusted Death Rate 9.4.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	8	3	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Infantile Mortality Rate 70

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of
childbirth, 0

Of the 100 deaths recorded during 1937, 14 were due to cancer.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals.

(1) Isolation.

Infectious cases are sent to the Chippenham and Malmesbury Joint Isolation Hospital, which is situated in the Chippenham Rural District. During the past year 13 cases were treated there.

(2) Small-Pox.

In the event of a case of small-pox arising in the District, isolation hospital accommodation is provided by the Wiltshire County Council at their small-pox hospital.

(3) Malmesbury and District Hospital (voluntary).

This Hospital is situated in the District, in the Parish of St. Paul Without. There are 24 beds available for medical and surgical cases.

(4) Maternity.

Malmesbury Maternity Home. This contains six beds, three of which are subsidised by the Wiltshire County Council.

(5) Ambulance Facilities.

For infectious cases a motor ambulance is maintained at the Chippenham and Malmesbury Joint Isolation Hospital, and serves to remove cases from the District.

For accident and non-infectious cases, a motor ambulance is maintained by the Malmesbury Fire Brigade for use in the Malmesbury Urban and Rural Districts.

(6) Laboratory Facilities.

Examinations of pathological specimens are carried out at the Salisbury Infirmary by an arrangement made by the County Council. During the past year 23 such examinations were made.

A supply of diphtheria anti-toxin is kept by the Medical Officer of Health for use by the practitioners of the District.

(7) Professional Nursing in the Home.

The greater part of your District is covered by the various Nursing Associations existing therein. It is to be regretted that the Crudwell, Hankerton and Minety Nursing Association has been abandoned owing to lack of support.

(a) Malmesbury District Nurse (supported by the Malmesbury and District Hospital Committee), working within a radius of three miles from Malmesbury.

Midwifery Cases 28. School Inspections 24.

(b) Brinkworth and Dauntsey Nursing Association.

Midwifery Cases 9. School Inspections 16.

(c) Hullavington Nursing Association.

Midwifery Cases 11. School Inspections 21.

(d) The Somerfords Nursing Association.

Midwifery Cases 4. School Inspections 13.

(e) Sherston Nursing Association.

Midwifery Cases 16. School Inspections 28.

(f) The Kemble Nursing Association (for the Parish of Oaksey).

Midwifery Cases 2. School Inspections 7.

Total for 1937—Midwifery Cases 70.

School Inspections 109.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(1) Water.

During the year a Public Local Inquiry has been held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health with regard to the Council's proposal to provide a supply of water for the Parishes of Brinkworth and Minety. The provision of a supply for Dauntsey is also under consideration.

Short lengths of main have been laid at Milbourne, St. Paul Without; Easton Town, Sherston, and Newtown, Hullavington.

(2) Scavenging.

A fortnightly collection of household refuse has been introduced in the Parish of Sherston and the dumping field in Knockdown Road has been closed and sold.

With a view to a more general collection of refuse in the district in the future the old brickworks, Brinkworth, has been purchased for use as a dump.

Periodic collections of tins, bottles and other hard refuse are made in the Parishes of Brinkworth, Hullavington, Luckington, and Oaksey.

Refuse dumps are provided and maintained in the Parishes of Brokenborough, Charlton, Crudwell, Dauntsey, Lea, and Great Somerford.

(3) Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Your Sanitary Inspector reports the following inspections, notices served and action taken during 1937.

Defective drains, sewers, etc.

Number detected	...	...	32
Number of notices served	...	...	32
Number complied with	...	...	29

Nuisances arising in Insanitary Premises.

Number detected	...	...	2
Number of notices served	...	...	2
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	2

Deposits of refuse.

Number detected	...	...	5
Number of notices served	...	...	5
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	5

Insanitary ditches, pools, etc.

Number detected	...	...	9
Number of notices served	...	...	9
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	9

Miscellaneous nuisances.

Number of cases detected	...	...	7
Number of notices served	...	...	7
Number of notices complied with		...	7

Infectious diseases, etc.

Number of premises visited	...	...	12
Number of disinfections	...	...	11

Formal action under Sec. 91, Public Health Act, 1875.

Number of nuisances detected	...	...	2
Number of notices served	...	...	2
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	2

(4) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the District.

(5) Eradication of bed bugs.

No action has been taken as no bed bugs are known to exist in the District.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1937.

During the year eight houses have been erected by your Council under the Housing Act, 1930, in the Parish of Hullavington, and four are in course of erection at Brinkworth. They are all of the non-parlour type with a large living room, scullery, bathroom, water closet and larder. Ten of the houses have three bedrooms, the other two (at Hullavington) each having four bedrooms. It is now your Council's practice to provide houses with four bedrooms where necessary to house large families.

During 1937 fifteen houses were erected by private enterprise, thirteen in the Parish of Malmesbury St. Paul Without, one at Crudwell, and one at Sherston.

Works of major repair were carried out in the case of ten cottages, nine with grant from the County Council under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

I. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) [a] Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	621
[b] Number of Inspections made for the purpose	1304
(2) [a] Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	275
[b] Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	275
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	40
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	99

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	41
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	0
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	...	6
---------------	-----	---

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0
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B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	...	2
---------------	-----	---

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0
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C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	23
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	4
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D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	13
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(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
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4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding:—

(a) [1] Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	13
[2] Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	13
[3] Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	82
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	3
(c) [1] Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	14
[2] Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	82
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 374 premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Order (1926).

There are 31 producers of Accredited Milk and 3 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk in the District.

Meat. Slaughter-houses.

There are four slaughter-houses licensed and six registered in your District.

Bakehouses.

Six bakehouses are registered in your District. Notices in respect of lime-washing were served in two cases. These were complied with.

Factories and Workshops.

There are twenty-one factories and thirty-four workshops in your District.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1937 the following cases of Infectious Disease were notified :

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Small-pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	8	8	0
Diphtheria	4	4	0
Enteric Fever			
(including paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	11	4	3
Erysipelas	3	2	0

There was no serious outbreak of scarlet fever during the year. The eight cases of scarlet fever occurred in the Parishes of Crudwell, three cases, Brinkworth, two cases, and one case each at Hullavington, Garsdon and Dauntsey.

The cases of diphtheria arose at Crudwell (two cases), Brinkworth and Minety.

All these cases were removed at once to the Chippenham and Malmesbury Joint Isolation Hospital with the exception of one case of diphtheria which, owing to an error on the part of the notifying medical practitioner, was removed to the Swindon Isolation Hospital.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case was notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of cases notified and deaths from this disease during 1937 are given in the following table.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25								
30	2	1	1		2			
45		1						
55								
65 and upwards								
TOTALS	2	2	1	0	2	0	0	0

In my opinion there are no cases of tuberculosis in the District which are non-notified.

Venereal Disease.

Cases of venereal disease can receive free treatment under the County Council scheme at either the Bath or Swindon Clinics.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

REGINALD M. MOORE, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.